

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, In conjunction with Adoption Awareness Month in November and the Year of Unity celebration, South Dakota is recognizing Hunka: The Making of Relatives Month; and,

Whereas, Lakota people have practiced the Hunka "making of relatives" ceremony for hundreds of years; and,

Whereas, There is a time during the Sun Dance practiced by the Lakota people where Hunka relationships are made either among Native Americans or between Native Americans and people from other cultures – a beautiful way to celebrate unity; and,

Whereas, The Hunka ceremony is for adopting others, who are not blood relatives, and are considered to be closer than a blood relative in the old way that was said to be above a blood relative; and,

Whereas, There are many people living in foster homes who may refer to that family as their Hunka family; and,

Whereas, Communities can share their support for anyone who is celebrated as a Hunka relative through the Lakota Hunka Ceremony, for anyone who has been adopted, or who is in foster care:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 2010 as

HUNKA – THE MAKING OF RELATIVES MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State